CLAIMS:

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1. A granting method (E) to grant a modification device (5) a modification right to modify an application in a data carrier (S), wherein the following steps are carried out: generation of a first key information item (K1) and of an associated second key information item (K2) for one or more data carriers (S) identified by a data carrier identification information item (ID);

granting of the modification right for data carriers (S) identified by the data carrier identification information item (ID) by outputting of the data carrier identification information item (ID) and of the associated second key information item (K2) to the modification device (5);

checking of the association of the first key information item (K1) stored in the data carrier (S) with the second key information item (K2) in the data carrier (S) that was output to the data carrier (S) by the modification device (5) and, if the result of the check is positive;

allowing of the modification of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S) by the modification device (5).

- 2. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification right gives the right to install and/or update and/or delete the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S).
- 3. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification right only gives the right to modify a specific application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S).
- 4. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification right only gives the right to install an application (A1, A2, A3, A4) requiring a predefined maximum amount of storage space in the data carrier (S).
  - 5. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data carrier identification information item (ID) identifies a group of data carriers (S).

- 6. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification right also determines the access rights of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) that is to be modified in the data carrier (S) to storage areas and interfaces (3, 4, 11) of the data carrier (S).
- 7. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the following further steps are carried out:

generation of a first master key information item (MKI1) and of an associated second master key information item (MKI2) for one or more data carriers (S) identified by a data carrier identification information item (ID), wherein the modification of access rights in the data carrier (S) and/or the generation of further key information items in the data carrier (S) and the modification device (5) is possible only with the first master key information item (MKI1) stored in the data carrier (S) and only with the second master key information item (MKI2) stored in the modification device (5).

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- 8. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first master key information item (MKI1) and the associated second master key information item (MKI2) only make it possible to modify access rights of a specific application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S) and/or to generate further key information items in the data carrier (S) and the modification device (5) in order to modify a specific application (A1, A2, A3, A4).
- 9. A granting method (E) as claimed in claim 1, wherein modification of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S) by the modification device (5) of the data carrier (S) is only permitted when specific properties of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) that is to be modified are determined.
- 10. A data carrier (S) for running at least one application (A1, A2, A3, A4), having

at least one interface (3, 4, 11) for the contactless and/or contact communication of information items, and having

computer means (6) for running the at least one application (A1, A2, A3, A4), where information items communicated via the interfaces (3, 4, 11) or information items stored in the data carrier (S) are processed, and having

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storage means (8) for storing a first key information item and an associated data carrier identification information item (ID) that identifies the data carrier (S), and having checking means (6, AS) for checking a modification right of a modification device (5) to modify an application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S) via the interface (3, 4, 11), where the checking means (6, AS) are designed to check the association of the first key information item (K1) stored in the storage means (8) with the second key information item (K2) output to the data carrier (S) by the modification device (5), and having modification means (6) which, following confirmation of the modification right of the modification device (5) by the checking means (6, AS), are designed to enable modification of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S) by the modification device (5).

- 11. A data carrier (S) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the checking means (6, AS) are designed to confirm a restricted modification right which only gives the right to install and/or update and/or delete the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S).
- 12. A data carrier (S) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the checking means (6, AS) are designed to confirm a restricted modification right which only gives the right to modify a specific application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S).
- 13. A data carrier (S) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the checking means (6, AS) are designed to confirm a restricted modification right which only gives the right to install an application (A1, A2, A3, A4) requiring a predefined maximum amount of storage space in the data carrier (S).
- 14. A data carrier (S) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the checking means (6, AS) are designed to confirm a modification right which determines the access rights of the application (A1, A2, A3, A4) that is to be modified in the data carrier (S) to storage areas of the storage means (7) and interfaces (3, 4, 11) of the data carrier (S).
- 15. A data carrier (S) as claimed in claim 10, wherein the computer means (6) are designed to run an application (A1, A2, A3, A4) formed by a Java applet.

16. A modification device (5) for modifying an application (A1, A2, A3, A4) in a data carrier (S), having

at least one interface (12) for the contactless and/or contact communication of information items to a data carrier (S) identified by a data carrier identification information item (ID), and having

storage means for storing at least one data carrier identification information item (ID) that identifies a data carrier (S), and an associated second key information item (K2), and having

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computer means (13) for modifying applications (A1, A2, A3, A4) in data

carriers (S) via the interface (12) where, in the course of communication with a data carrier

(S) identified by a stored data carrier identification information item (ID), the modification

right of the modification device (5) is output to the data carrier (S) by communication of the

second key information item (K2) associated with this data carrier identification information

item (ID), whereupon, following confirmation of the modification right by the data carrier

(S), the modification device (5) is authorized and designed to modify the application (A1,

A2, A3, A4) in the data carrier (S).

17. A modification device (5) as claimed in claim 16, wherein the modification device (5) is formed by an operator computer (10) containing the storage means and by a reading device (2) that is connected to the operator computer (10) over a data network (NET), the reading device (2) comprising the at least one interface (12) and at least part of the computer means (13) of the modification device (5).